

Did you know?

- ❖ A mature pampas grass plant can produce about 50 plumes each season; each plume can produce up to 100,000 seeds; and the seeds can travel up to 20 miles!
- ❖ A single domestic cat can kill hundreds of native birds, lizards, and other wildlife every year! Contrary to common belief, well-fed cats and cats with bells do kill birds!
- ❖ Feeding wildlife (including bird-feeders) can impair health, reproduction, diminish foraging skills, and attract pests such as rats or non-native bird species.



California poppy

For more Information

For more information, see the website dedicated to the Carlsbad Preserve System. (Look for the link on the City's website <http://ci.carlsbad.ca.us/>) Here is a list of some of the things you will find:

- ❖ Information about the preserve system and individual preserves.
- ❖ Volunteer opportunities.
- ❖ Information about native species, habitats, and local ecology.
- ❖ Additional information about edge effects.
- ❖ FAQs.
- ❖ Maps.
- ❖ And more!

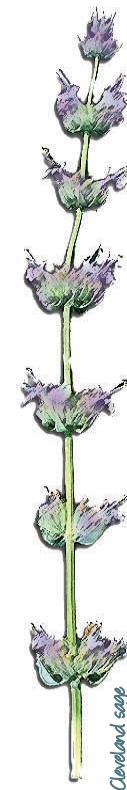


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Help protect
Carlsbad's
natural
open space



Cleveland sage

Carlsbad
Preserve System



Gabb's checkerspot

What are edge effects?

“Edge effects” is a general term for a variety of impacts to natural communities across a boundary such as the transition from developed land to scrub habitat. In our urbanized area, the edge effects of concern are those associated with human activity in or around the preserve. These edge effects often don’t just effect the plants and wildlife on the edges, but can damage the entire area of the preserve. Examples of edge effects include invasive non-native plants, which may compete with native species; excessive noise and nighttime lighting, which may disrupt the breeding behavior of some birds; and ornamental landscaping, which may result in runoff containing fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides, all of which are harmful to our natural lands.

How does that affect me?

Anyone who lives adjacent to or recreates within natural open space may be contributing to harmful edge effects. What you do in your yard, how you manage your pets, the kinds of recreational activities you participate in may all affect the natural ecosystem. Even if you live miles away from the nearest preserve, the plants in your yard could be invading the natural habitat!

What can I do?

Landscaping

- ❖ Don’t plant invasive species, such as pampas grass, fountain grass, fennel, or artichoke thistle (see www.cal-ipc.org).
- ❖ Plant native species to reduce usage of water, pesticides, and fertilizer (see <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/nativeplants/> for more info).
- ❖ Use only organic pesticides such as insecticidal soap or neem oil.
- ❖ Don’t over water or allow runoff to flow into native habitat.



Pampas grass

Managing Pets

- ❖ When hiking in a preserve keep your dog on a leash and pick up the poop!
- ❖ Keep cats indoors if you live within a mile of a preserve area.
- ❖ Don’t release your pets in the wild! Pets can be devastating to the native fauna. Pets can’t survive on their own in the wild and will suffer needlessly.
- ❖ Don’t dump your aquarium, including the water, fish, plants, or snails, into storm drains, gutters, streams, ponds, or lakes.



Living with Wildlife

- ❖ Never leave pet food outside.
- ❖ Bring pets in at night.
- ❖ Don’t try to “tame” a wild animal.
- ❖ Don’t feed wildlife, including birds (if you live next to a preserve), coyotes, and squirrels.
- ❖ Use garbage cans that have a locking mechanism on the lid.
- ❖ Use methods other than poisons to kill or remove pests such as gophers and rats. If they get eaten by another animal, the poison can kill, affect reproduction, and may remain in the food chain.



Coyote

Other Things you can do

- ❖ Report road kill observations to the Preserve Steward to help assess wildlife movement corridor issues (see contact information on the back page).
- ❖ Stay on formal trails when hiking to help reduce erosion and disturbance to native species and their habitat.
- ❖ Keep motorized vehicles out of the preserve! Mountain bikes may be used on authorized multiple-use trails only.
- ❖ Don’t leave trash when you go on a hike or picnic.